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2. He shall keep two distinct catalogues of the books of the library, the one arranged in alphabetical order, the other a catalogue raisonnee.

3. He shall keep on the table of the library, the book in which members are to enter the names and recommendations of books they wish to be purchased, agreeably to law IV. of preceding section.

4. He shall keep a register, in which at one view shall be seen who have borrowed any books, when said books are to be returned into the library, and who is next entitled, by prior application, to receive such books.

5. He shall keep a correct account of the philosophical apparatus belonging to the Institution, and shall from time to time add to it such articles as may have been purchased, and take care that all deficiencies be made good by the responsible persons.

6. He shall act as secretary to the institution, issuing all summonses, and attending all general meetings, taking down the minutes of the proceedings, and keeping the respective books of the Institution, and of the committee of twenty-one, for the correctness and regularity of which, he shall be responsible.

7. He shall one week previous to the first of March, in each year, notify to the annual subscribers, individually, the day on which subscriptions become due, calling upon them to pay in the same.

8. Furnished apartments shall be provided for the Librarian in the house, and the several officers and servants thereof, shall be placed under his immediate superintendence, subject to such laws and regulations as the committee shall from time to time direct, to whom he is in the strictest sense to be amenable, attending to, and enforcing their orders, and considering himself as fully responsible for the preserva-

tion of the property entrusted to his care.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

GOLDSMITH, GENERALLY A JUST POLITICIAN AS WELL AS A GOOD POET.

FEW lovers of good poetry are to be met, who have not greatly admired Goldsmith's Traveller. That fine poem, and his other poem, the Deserted Village, possess also strong claims on the politician, for the sound sentiments with which they abound on the subjects of morals, and political economy. Perhaps in no political works are juster sentiments conveyed, and probably this merit has been more generally overlooked, than their beauties as poetical productions of high excellence. The spirit of liberty which breathes through them, was not accordant with the narrowness and bigotry of Dr. Johnson. It may not be generally known, that the concluding lines of the Traveller were added by him, as it would appear to me insidiously, to counteract Goldsmith's enlightened views of the necessity of a just system of government. The following are the four lines added by Dr. Johnson :

"The lifted axe, the agonizing wheel,
Luke's iron crown, and Damien's bed of steel,
To men remote from power, but rarely known,
Leave reason, faith, and conscience, all our own."

Their tendency, including also a few preceding lines, is certainly very dissimilar to the general drift of the reasoning adopted by Goldsmith in these excellent poems. These added lines, and the few lines which preceded, probably written under his friend's influence, inculcate that indifference to the conduct of rulers,

which suits so well with the tory notions of Johnson, and which our modern Anti-Jacobins would be desirous to promulgate as our charter.

K.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

THE reason of my now addressing you, is in consequence of seeing in Mr. Nicholson's Philosophical Journal, for June last, an account of a Life-boat, which so exactly answers in the general plan to that described in your Magazine, for January, 1809, vol. 2, page 36, that I am induced, (being the writer of that article) to lay claim to the *priority of invention*. Indeed, so similar is the plan proposed by Mr. Bremner, to that given in your Magazine, that it comes within the limits of possibility, that he may have seen the directions there published.

I have long been convinced of the practicability of my plan, by a series of experiments made many years ago, but never thought of making it public, until reading in your Magazine, the account of the shipwreck at Ballycastle, vol. 1, page 268, where had any one thought of equipping a common boat, with three or four empty twenty gallon casks, and a little heavy ballast, well secured from shifting, there is great reason to suppose, the crew might have reached the shore in safety. More than two years have elapsed since your publication made known my plan, which was also, at my instance, inserted in the Belfast News-Letter, from the desire of rendering more extended, what I was persuaded would be useful information, and might be successfully employed whenever such a melancholy scene as that described at Ballycastle, presented itself.

My object was to show that a boat may be made ready, when wanted, without any previous preparation, and even where corkwood is not to be procured. Where every thing can be had, and money is at command, I am convinced that Mr. Christopher Towill's boat (a description of which terminated my former communication) is that which should be adopted in preference to any I have yet seen described. It never entered my mind that an honorary medal or any other emolument would follow my plan; if it should ever be the means of rescuing a single individual from death, I would then receive an ample reward.

Your humble Servant,

JOHN TEMPLETON.

Belfast, November 5, 1811.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

BEING at the Irish Forum in May last, when the question for discussion was, "Whether punishment for death should be abolished," the following ideas occurred to me, which I immediately committed to paper, on my return home. Your giving them a place in your useful miscellany, will oblige (whom you will occasionally hear from) your obedient,

HUGUES.

Dublin, 14th July, 1811.

CONSIDERATIONS ON PUNISHING CRIMES BY DEATH.

IS it possible, without shuddering with horror, to reflect on the periodical havock of our fellow-beings, made by the laws of these countries for the commission of crimes?

Death is of dreadful things the most dreadful, yet there is scarcely an of-